WARDEN 'CHARMED,' BUT---

'Manson Didn't Fool Us,' Says Ex-Guard

By MARY NEISWENDER
Staff Writer

"He reminded me of an old car . . . you know things'll keep going wrong with it, but you keep trying to repair it."

This was the impression that hippie cult leader Charles Manson left with most guards at the federal prison on Terminal Island and with one in particular. Guard Henry Tippett of 2677 Jefferson St., Long Beach, now retired, watched over the self-styled Messiah during his almost three years in the prison.

Manson's sentence to Terminal Island followed conviction of transporting a stolen car across state lines, and parole violation.

Manson—apparently a Svengali even in prison, Tippett said—charmed the then-associate warden, who made him a trustie.

"The officers who had contact with him didn't agree with the warden," said Tippett. "We opposed making him a trustie. If you work in a prison long enough, you get to know these things, especially with this guy's background."

Tippett, who retired in 1959—a year after Manson was released — claimed Manson had a tendency to break the rules.

"HE WAS always doing things wrong — anything to violate the rules. It seemed intentional. It wasn't because he was dumb," Tippett said.

"For example, a simple thing like being assigned to a dormitory. Manson wouldn't stay in one dorm. He'd switch around, just to annoy the guards."

Tippett said the guards quit "writing him up" because Manson was never disciplined.

"He would have been in isolation all the time if the warden had paid attention to the guards," Tippett added.

Tippett, who was previously at Fort Leavenworth Prison, Kans., claimed that even the older inmates who associated with the then 22-year-old Manson eventually ended up "in trouble."

"But he apparently

EX-GUARD TIPPETT
'We Knew His Type'

charmed one of the associate wardens," said Tippett. "The warden had him on one job, then another—never doing anything." Finally, say Tippett, Manson went before the classsification board and became a trustie.

"I GUESS they felt they could make something out of him," he added, "but most of us—the ones who saw him in action—felt he wouldn't last long as a trustie.

Manson didn't.

Assigned to clean-up work at the adjacent Coast Guard base, Manson got into a locker room, outfitted himself in new clothing, picked up some car keys

Ironically, he was caught at a roadblock near San Francisco shortly after his escape by police who weren't even looking for him.

Manson was returned to the prison, where he stayed until his release in 1958.

He had few "followers" at that time, Tippett said. "Most other inmates stayed away from him."

Not so today.

THE BEARDED, long-haired leader of the hippie cult suspected of the Tate killings and "at least 10 others," has a following whose loyalty is hard to believe.

Held in Inyo County jail for 10 days awaiting preliminary hearings on a charge of receiving stolen property, he "still runs his 'family' in jail," say sheriff's officers.

"He gives the orders and they obey him," say the officers.

'They' are the remnants of his gang in the desert area — three men in a large cell with him, and one woman in a separate part of the jail.

"We find Manson a model prisoner though," added the officers. "But he should be by now. He has been in and out of jail since he was 15."

MANSON was first arrested on an adult charge in 1951, in Beaver, Utah, for taking a stolen car across a state line (a federal offense). He was sent to the National Training School for Boys in Washington, D.C., then transferred to the federal reformatory at Petersburg, Pa.

In 1955 he was arrested for auto theft in Los Angeles and given five years' probation; he violated his federal probation a year later in Indianapolis and was sent to the Terminal Island prison.

When released in 1958, he was picked up for a vehicle code violation in Los Angeles. The following year he was arrested for auto theft, and later in the year for forgery. In 1960 he was arrested in Laredo, Tex., for transporting women across a state line for immoral purposes (another federal offense).

In 1967 he was arrested in Ukiah for interfering with an officer; in 1968 in Ventura for having a false driver's license.

In 1969 his Los Angeles arrests included possession of marijuana; assault with intent to commit bodily harm, later changed to forceable rape; auto theft; burglary; cultivation and possession of marijuana, and the final charges for which he is currently in jail: contributing to the delinquency of a minor, firearm theft, receiving stolen property and auto theft.

At his preliminary hearing Wednesday, some of his followers were in the audience lending him moral support; others in jail spoke out in his defense.

Some of his followers have even said they'd kill for him — and they allegedly did.

★ ★ ★

Sharon's Dad Hunted Her Killers

The father of actress Sharon Tate grew a mustache and a beard and posed as a hippie for four months in an attempt to uncover some lead to the brutal murder of his daughter.

Paul Tate, 46, who had worked for 23 years with U.S. Army intelligence units, told newsmen he frequented hippie haunts, lived in communes and associated with drug users in his search for a clue in his oldest daughter's death. But he refused to say whether his personal investigation had been of any value to investigators.

THE HANDSOME Palos Verdes peninsula resident, whose daughter's first movie offer came in Italy "when she was just an Army brat," said he mostly worked alone in his quest. At times, he said, with others, including police officers.

The arrest of the hippie suspects in the slayings, he said, "took a great weight off my mind," but the actions of "attorneys, judges and others has added some back." He said he was disappointed with them for revealing details of the murder.

"You don't go around telling the world what information or evidence you have . . . the murderers should be tried in court, not publicly over television or in the press."

Tate, who retired as a lieutenant colonel the day after his daughter's death, is also bitter about "the sensational press" and the details revealed about his daughter's personal life.

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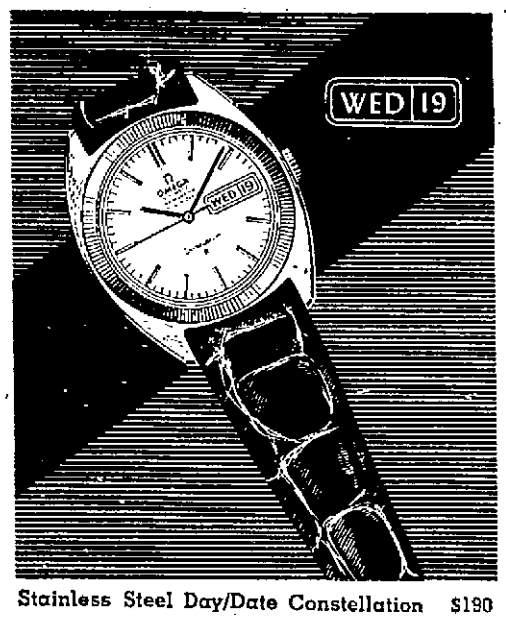

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